

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, February 26, 1892, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. HOTEL BRISTOL, Rome, Feb. 26, 1892. My dear Alec:

We had such a good time this afternoon at the Carnival, if you could have been there it would have been almost perfect.

It is funny the difference between Elsie and Daisy. So far as I can judge Daisy is perfectly unconscious of herself, and enjoyed herself this afternoon with all a child's careless gaiety and thoughtlessness, while Elsie could not forget herself, and took all the bouquets levelled at her as a personal tribute, and blushed and smiled, and has brought home two of the prettiest.

These Romans of today do seem to go on the principle of being thankful for small favors. Such crowds as there were today in the Corso, the whole streets so far as the eye could reach packed with a solid moving mass of humanity. There were quite a number of cars, some very elaborate and two stories in height still hardly sufficient to account for so much enthusiasm. If you remember the Carnival of ten years ago you will have a good idea of this one, it seemed to me just about the same, unless the crowd is the greater now. My thoughts were full of that day, and I almost looked for Mr. Johnson's tall ridiculous figure among the crowd. There was about the same amount of dressing up, but no costume so unique as his. Carloads of young men passed up and down, and between them and the balconies the fight of flowers was liveliest, and no one pelted them more heartily than ours. I invested about three dollars in flowers, remarkable for their quantity and cheapness, and not for quality, and the children say they can hardly move their right arms tonight.

## Library of Congress

Yesterday in an evil moment Daisy discovered that the Coliseum was to be illuminated with Bengal lights at half past eight, and thither accordingly we wended our way. The arena was filled with people sitting or walking about and the scene was very brightly lighted with electric lights. There was music and we had to wait for sometime. Finally there was a boom and with a crash a rocket shot in the air and red and green lights filled the vast space while the electric lights went out. The effect was certainly very fine and the ruins very impressive, but we couldn't enjoy it very long for the rocket and booming started the rain a la Drydenforth and we had no umbrellas. There was more of a jam passing through the entrance than I quite liked, but Daisy thought it was jolly and like old Roman times. Daisy thinks she wants to go sightseeing all the time, Elsie thinks she would like to visit strange countries, but only where she can go into society, "for she likes society."

We went to the Vatican gallery today, it was a great failure because I calculated on getting a catalogue, and would not encumber myself with Baedeker. Of course there wasn't any, and we had to pass through with the children uninterested and indifferent. I was much disappointed in the Sistine Chapel which I saw for the first time, the colors are dark and dauby, but if I had had the opera-glass I think I should have enjoyed it. I have had a remarkable habit of leaving the glass behind exactly when I most wanted it.

Please excuse this stupid letter, I am so sleepy every night I hardly know what to do. It seems to me I did not think enough of you left all alone in Boston. I do not like your being 3 there all by yourself, and if I could only drop the children somewhere I would go to you. I am so sorry I kept your dressssuit, however it is pretty well worn, so get another.

Lovingly always, Mabel;